

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOMBAY

PHD ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

DATE: 18-12-2017 TIME: 9.30AM-12.30 NOON

SOCIOLOGY

**General Instructions:**

1. Please answer all questions in the answer booklet provided.
2. **Please attach the question paper to the answer sheet.**
3. Please read the questions carefully and answer within the designated page limit.
4. Please note that there will be a **penalty of 5 marks** for every half-page written over the page limit.

**Section 1: Research Proposal (20 marks)**

Page limit: 4 sides

*Please write a research proposal outlining the broad research questions, the research objectives, and a brief methodology for your proposed Phd. Briefly mention the theoretical literature, concepts or literature you propose to engage with. Explain why you think this problem is worth studying.*

**Section 2: Short notes (40 marks)**

Page limit: 2 sides

*Please write 2 short notes (20 marks each) on contemporary events and their connection to Sociological Theory. Students must choose two from the following 6 questions:*

1. Explain grounded theory and its methodological significance in directing sociological inquiry?
2. Discuss the relationship between gender and 'environmental conservation' in the contemporary era of 'ecological crisis'?
3. In light of recent demands for reservation by dominant castes in India (Jats, Patidars, Marathas), explain whether these demands reflect a desire to consolidate their caste power and status, or a reflection of their class position.
4. Discuss the methodological significance of participant-observation in sociological/anthropological field research. How does it help in preparing

designing and doing research? Discuss with reference to any interesting work (or works) that you have read.

5. Recent judgments of the Supreme Court appear to stress the need for 'constitutional morality' to filter through society. Using examples of some of these cases critically examine, from a sociological perspective, how successful the judicial path may be in applying fundamental rights to non-state actors.
6. We are familiar with the idea that India has a distorted child sex ratio. This has been termed the problem of the 'missing women'. In your answer, you need to clearly delineate, with examples: (a) the various ways through which these women go 'missing' and (b) the micro- and macro-sociological implications that emerge out of this problem.

### **Section 3: Theoretical questions (40 marks)**

Page limit: 2 sides

*Please answer the following questions on Sociological Theory. Students **must choose 2 (20 marks each) from the following 6 questions:***

1. Can we use Durkheim's theory and types of suicides to explain farmers' suicides in India? Explain why or why not by briefly elaborating the different types of suicides.
2. Briefly outline Max Weber's theory of bureaucracy, and its significance for addressing the problem of social hierarchy.
3. Explain Anthony Giddens' structuration approach and outline how it attempts a resolution of the structure-agency problem in sociology.
4. MN Srinivas wrote an 'obituary' to caste as a system. Evaluate his position vis-à-vis recent scholarship on caste.
5. How can we use Marx's theory of primitive accumulation to understand the problems of labour in contemporary India?
6. Construct an interview schedule (and a guide to non/participant observation) if this is your research problem: to deploy Bourdieu's concept of 'capitals' to understand the Dalit middle class in Mumbai.